

Great Stories and Great Ideas:

Selected Public Value Partnership Grant Responses from FY 2009

About Building Relationships:

Whitefish Theater Co

A retired federal judge builds a set with a seasonal fisherman; a professional artist paints scenery with high school art students; three generations of one family perform together in "Peter Pan"; a husband and wife ministry team volunteer backstage; a local actor's twelve-year-old son volunteers as a set changer while his dad is acting in the play; a local physician is the official trimmer of the shrubbery around the Center; and several mothers with babies enjoy working together in the costume shop during the day. In all, over 350 volunteers work as actors, musicians, stage hands, set builders, box office assistants, costumers, set dressers, and seamstresses.

Sunburst Community Foundation – Eureka

Building a relationship with the new high school music teacher has been key in helping us to connect with our student audience. She helps to spread the word on our events, incorporates our programming into her classes, gives ideas on future programming, and created a musical honors society that provides student volunteers for our events. The enthusiasm and partnership has been wonderful.

Montana Shakespeare in the Parks – Bozeman

At Chico after the performance, a gentleman came up to me with his wife, looking very bashful. He smiled and his wife nudged him. Reluctantly, he said, "my wife wanted me to tell you I am 37 years old," He paused, and I wasn't sure what to say back. He continued, "And I've seen a Shakespeare in the Parks performance every year since I was born." I was talking to a man who could mark every year of his life with a theatrical experience from MSIP.

Great Falls Symphony Assoc

[For GFSA's 50th Anniversary Celebration]... Performing groups representing the entire spectrum of performing arts were integrated into the event. The orchestra and symphonic choir was joined by representatives of city government, Malmstrom AFB, the GF's Children's Choir, high school choirs, local dance studios, our Youth Orchestra and the recent winners of the MASO Young Artist Competition as we celebrated the past, and most importantly present and the future – our next 50 years! A special invitation was issued to people who had been involved with the GFSA over the past 50 years. We saw many people return to the concert hall, who for one reason or another, had fallen away from regular attendance. We felt such a connection – one that we have challenged ourselves to maintain.

Archie Bray Foundation for the Ceramic Arts – Helena

The Bray Facebook page started in 2009 now has over 1,000 members from the United States, Canada, Argentina, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom, Mexico, India, Taiwan, Chile, Japan, Hong Kong, South Africa, Australia, Brazil, Israel, Italy, Belgium, Denmark and Morocco who receive posts on news and happenings at the Bray in 20 different languages. Through this exciting new venue we are able to share information and photos about daily activities and goings on that we expect will draw people even closer to the Bray.

Bozeman Symphony

With the Museum of the Rockies Dinosaur Bones and Eckroth Music's instrument "petting zoo," the lobby of the Willson was set up... A dinosaur movie played overhead on the big screen while Maestro Savery, dressed in character costumes befitting the event, lead the 80 member Bozeman Symphony Orchestra. Local actors read scripts introducing the children to Indiana Jones and other familiar characters. Jack Horner mesmerized the children when he took the podium and talked about dinosaur digging, motivation, and how much he treasures living in Montana.

Stumptown Art Studio & Ceramics Annex – Whitefish

MAC funding allowed us a unique opportunity this spring to offer a series of free clay classes taught by a professional potter. Initially involving students from our middle school, the classes were then opened up to the entire community. During a course of two months, over 250 residents from the age of 3 to 75 came to the studio to learn how to create three-dimensional clay tiles. These tiles were donated for installation at a Whitefish Bike and Pedestrian Path Trail bridge... participants are thrilled to have a "piece of themselves" on permanent public display. The Studio built critical relationships with city officials during this project, including our mayor, members of the police team, and city council members. *"They got their hands dirty together. Contractors sitting next to 4-years old, grandmothers next to insurance agents, high school students next to city councilors. Folks of all ages and walks of life come to be part of a community public art project."*

Butte Symphony

We listened to our audience and made changes... by (a) shifting to all evening performances, (b) broadening music programming, and (c) having the conductor present informal program notes during concerts. We renewed our commitment to holding after-concert receptions at the Museum of Fine Arts Butte (MoFAB). The MoFAB, across the street from the concert venue, is easily accessible at street level and readily extends the musical/social evening for all. The result has been greater attendance at receptions by both audience members and musicians, and an improved sense of community between BSA performers and their audiences. Additionally, the receptions increase the visibility of and support for the MoFAB, a valued partner in the local arts community.

VSA arts of Montana – Missoula

The Montana State Hospital (MSH) program, a presentation of a radio show version of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," has become an annual tradition for the patients' Christmas dinner where the performers [patients at MSH] serve dinner to their audience, then perform, and are then served by MSH staff. For one of the actors, this was the first time anyone had ever served her dinner. She was in tears. The program also led staff to realize the abilities of their patients.

MCT, Inc – Missoula

Several members of our marketing and development team attended a MAC workshop, "The Art of Leadership." One result was a new tagline, "You Belong," and our next step was to have a marketing/development department retreat (our ED also attended) during which we discussed strategic planning, branding, and how to develop "You Belong." Degree of Success: We have used "You Belong" on our brochures and elsewhere, and we think this phrase has tremendous potential because the idea of belonging is appealing. We are preparing a presentation of this concept for our board and will present it at the January meeting. Our goal is to give board members talking points related to "You

Belong,” so they can use the idea when talking about MCT to friends and associates... the phrase is included on the cover of our current brochures.

Emerson Cultural Center – Bozeman

A letter from Kristin Sutton of Irving School:

The [Emerson's] Schools in the Gallery program is an invaluable asset to the Bozeman Public School District. As an elementary school teacher in an economically and culturally diverse school, I feel it is an excellent opportunity to expose children to art and culture. School programs and exhibits are designed to be thought-provoking, engaging and often hand-on. Pre-visits by gallery directors and volunteers are relevant and build curiosity, vocabulary and background knowledge for the students and the teachers. We are lucky to have such an outreach program dedicated to spreading art and cultural awareness through the community. We all know that igniting these light bulbs at a young age will better the chances of having engaged and involved supporters of art and culture in our future.

Hockaday Museum of Art – Helena

Our communications director conducted a public promotion campaign to encourage citizens ages 60+ to visit the Museum every month on Senior Tour & Tea Days, which offers free admission, Docent-led tours, and light refreshments. Annual attendance increased 40%. Three local pharmacies helped co-sponsor costs for the year...

Glacier Orchestra – Kalispell

As part of Festival Amadeus 2009, the GSC created a new opening event called “Evening with the Artists” as a way to try to connect the audience with the artists and musicians that would be performing at the weeklong music festival in Whitefish. The 4 main guest artists were interviewed onstage, one at a time in an informal setting, and then asked to perform a short piece. The audience was able to hear about how they got interested in music, why they chose to become a professional musician, what current projects they were working on, what challenges they faced with the pieces they were performing, etc. There was a social aspect to the evening with wine and food served both before and after the interviews/performance...The overall impact was that those attending got a chance to see the artists “up close and personal,” to meet them, ask questions and to hear about what they planned to do during the week. We believe it increased attendance at concerts during the week of the festival and made those attending feel like the whole experience was more intimate than something they would attend in a larger community.

About Creating Relevance:

Hockaday Museum of Art – Helena

Recognizing the intrinsic value of artists to an art museum, and the seminal influence their work has on the direction of the institution, we asked local and regional artists to play a larger role in the daily life of the Hockaday Museum than they might have in the past. We looked for opportunities and found them easily. More than 40 professional artists became featured guest speakers at exhibition openings, conducted workshops (paid) for adults, gave painting and sculpting demonstrations in our galleries, presented to our Docent trainees, led monthly artist circles with students of all ages, and consulted with us on new program ideas. The artists appreciated being recognized for their skills and brought powerful

new energy to our institution. Attendance increased for every single exhibition opening, workshop and special activity held during the last year!

Missoula Art Museum

We encourage artists to engage audience and where possible encourage audience participation. One such exhibition was created last year by Missoula artist Kerri Rosenstein. Her installation, entitled “*father*,” created to remember her recently deceased father, involved a collection of 23,024 rose-colored stones [one for each day of his life]... the artist invited each viewer to take one stone and place it back in nature as a gesture of remembrance. The artist established a blog to collect viewer’s experiences and photographs of the travelling stones... visitors reported of the stones’ journeys to 11 states in the U.S. and 9 foreign countries. An 11-year-old visitor wrote “*It looks to me like you’re taking pieces of nature out of the wilderness, filling them with love, ambition, and peace, then returning them back to where they belong in a way so that everyone who chooses to can have a little piece of the power you’ve created.*”

Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art – Great Falls

Board member/pottery instructor, Jacque Finnicum, shared how the programs at Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art can change lives: *My first encounter with Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art was in the fall of 2003. I found myself at an abrupt crossroads in my life. For 17 years I had put myself on hold while raising my two children. At the beginning of fall term my son announced that upon graduating he would be joining the military and intended to get as far away from home as humanly possible. At that moment my entire world stopped. I had dedicated my life to these two young people and without any qualms they would go off to pursue their own dreams, goals, and adventures. Life as I knew it was about to change. I happened to see a notice in the newspaper week events: Beginning Potter’s Wheel at The Square. I decided then and there I was going to do something for myself. I took a class with Don Marberg and fell in love with clay. Clay is much like our lives, molded by the choices we make and each decision made has a direct effect on the outcome of each piece. Clay is now a daily part of my life and has become my passion. While I still remain completely dedicated to my family **I now have my own purpose.** One of the great joys I have found is being able to help others find their passion in clay. So now I teach pottery at the museum where I fell in love with clay. A very dear friend was diagnosed with MS several years ago and I meet with him at The Square once a week to work with clay and we work on keeping his mobility and creativity going strong. We have had to learn new ways of working around his disability so he can continue to pursue his passion. I am dedicated to the success of the clay department at The Square because **I have been touched firsthand by the power of being given an opportunity to grow and learn.** I am grateful everyone involved with The Square for helping me and I look forward to being able to continue to grow, learn, share and experience a Life in Clay.*

Holter Museum of Art – Helena

This past year a series of exhibitions featured Montana architect/artists, past and present. The exhibition *The Original Man: Montana Architect A.J. Gibson*... and alongside this exhibition... *The Urge to Build: Works by MSU Student Architects*... a display of the renowned works of one of the state’s great architects as well as the work of its aspiring young architects-in-training. Rarely do students of architecture get the opportunity to display their work for the general public to view and appreciate...

The Museum also hosted *Family Day: Box City* as part of [Jane Cowen’s] residency. In this one-day event, geared to families and community members, people of all ages contributed to the building of a

city by creating buildings out of boxes. Upon arrival at the Museum, participants stopped at the “building permit” table. Here they were able to decide what type of building they wanted to construct and get the building permit. Once their building was approved they proceeded to the construction zone in which they picked up the number of boxes and other materials needed for the creation of their chosen building. Once the participant’s building was created they moved to the city grid, which was placed in the Sherman gallery, where they worked with volunteers to plan the appropriate city layout, placing their building in the correct zone. Families learned about city planning, construction processes, architectural elements, and collaboration in a fun and interactive way.

Yellowstone Art Museum – Billings

At least monthly, we worked to host varied and sometimes unexpected types of events to attract different sectors of the population into the museum (poetry reading, wine tasting, antique appraisal day, a collaboration with the Billings Symphony for Mussorgsky’s *Pictures at an Exhibition*, an art film festival, ArtSplat!), and we collect feedback through surveys from both new and repeat visitors.

Whitefish Theater Co

“Pick Me! Pick Me!” is the title of the children’s summer camp that WTC initiated in conjunction with two local animal organizations, The Humane Society of Northwest Montana and Flathead Shelter Friends. On the first day of camp the children visited the animal shelters and chose an animal to write about. The campers created their own script and portrayed their chosen animal in the play... The partnership between WTC and the animal shelters showed how the arts can be used effectively to educate and enlighten individuals on a diversity of issues that are important to our community.

Venture Theatre, Inc – Billings

Venture Theatre Conservatory produced *The Castaways*, a musical play that deals with the issue of homelessness...selected as a platform to create awareness and educate the 50+ children in the production about the issue of homelessness in their community. Students participated in a number of community outreach activities... we brought in a guest speaker...This sobering presentation ignited a passion in this young cast to take action. They researched the organizations in Billings that serve the homeless and voted on which organization to assist... held a snack drive and raised \$350, with all the proceeds going to Tumbleweed. The students were very proud of the work and still talk about their experience.

Butte Symphony

The students arrived at the theater, streamed into the building... Maestra Stoyanovich opened the program with music from “Chronicles of Narnia,” which was immediately followed by the lowering of a giant movie screen across the entire stage. To a completely silent audience of 1,100 4th and 5th graders, the orchestra played *Essence Grotesque*, *Andante Doloroso*, and *Funeral March* as accompaniment to clips from a 1930s black-and-white version of “Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.” Few, if any of these students had ever seen early black-and-white film or the crude special effects employed in that era, but they easily recognized good and evil, cheering when good triumphed... After the sinister cinemas, the children heard music from the more familiar “Lord of the Rings” and “Raiders of the Lost Ark.” At the end of a short hour...it was time to head home with a new appreciation for movies and the music that accompanies them.

Custer County Art & Heritage Center – Miles City

We featured another in the series of “By Design” exhibits. This one titled “From These Hands” included work outside the normal realm of “fine arts”: tooled metal, handmade saddles, boots and western hats, knives, etc., along with several disabled artists’ work that they produce for pleasure and self-expression rather than for an audience. It was very well-received and this series has produced some new visitors that don’t otherwise seem to be attracted to our regular offerings.

About Return on Investment:

Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art – Great Falls

Our After School Art Education program has been offered free through grant support but funding was recently denied and classes now required participants to pay a nominal fee. At the museum’s Annual Art Auction, Julie Easton, a high school teacher and Board member, spoke about the importance of that program: *“The other day after picking up my daughter from school, I asked how her day had gone. Excitedly, she told me she had had such a fantastic day. “We got to do art in school today, Mom!” I was stunned that my daughter had only had the occasion to do art twice so far this year at Roosevelt Public School. Art is a sorely missed, vital component in educating our youth, and with the persistent threat of budget cuts in our school system, we need to understand the role of the After School Art Program offered by Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art. My sister-in-law [a high school art teacher] finds the Square a necessary component in communicating to her high school art students the significance of contemporary art in people’s lives. Her students come to realize how they too can possess the tools to impact their communities. In their art, they communicate contemporary and cultural attitudes and become empowered and confident in their abilities. Other local artists also nurture the creative spirit in young children through the After School program... I have had to call myself to task to prioritize my values in helping to bring our community to an awareness of what is real. With a general lack of funding in every aspect of economy, the arts are the first to feel the pinch. I have committed to prioritize what I see as necessary for my daughters’ education and that is to support the art programs in our community in any way possible. It may mean one fewer Happy Meal each month, but my daughters pinky-promised that they wouldn’t try to convince me to abandon my better judgment and settle for something less than what our community of children deserves. And what they deserve is the opportunity to grow in understanding and communicating their world through art.”*

MCT, Inc - Missoula

“When I moved to Missoula, reading was my worst subject in school, but since I started having to memorize lines, my reading greatly improved. Now reading is one of my best subjects. The theatre helped me in the process of figuring out who I am and helping me gain self-esteem. MCT opened new doors for me...”

Stumptown Art Studio & Ceramics Annex – Whitefish

We are proud to serve as a safe and creative outlet for children, many of whom spend time at our studio taking classes and volunteering during after school hours while parents are still at work. Our outreach programs served over 1,500 children in the last 12 months in West Glacier, Coram, Columbia Falls, Whitefish and Olney.

Missoula Writing Collaborative

In this day of educational accountability and the expectation that all students achieve proficiency in reading and math, it becomes more and more essential to kindle a desire for learning in our students. Sometimes participation in the arts becomes the motivating factor for students to succeed. Our poet-in-residence, Sheryl Noethe, gives a voice to the imagination of our students and adds a fresh dimension to their school lives. -- Nancy Singleton, Principal, Hellgate Middle School

Through the experience of hearing poetry and writing and sharing their own poems, children are saying "I belong. I matter. I can." No other school subject or activity has so deeply touched and empowered the hearts of our students. Poetry has connected them to themselves and to those around them. It has stimulated visions of what they can be in their lives. The return on every dollar spent on teaching poetry in the schools is immeasurable. -- Nancy McCulloch, Teacher, Rattlesnake School

Alberta Bair Theater – Billings

In August 2009, the Alberta Bair Theater's annual Summer Teacher Institute drew 42 teachers from around the region to Billings for five full days of training with two Kennedy Center teaching artists on how to integrate the arts into the classroom... Enthusiastic comments from participating teachers indicated that they can't wait to apply techniques and lessons learned at the Institute in their own classrooms, as is evidenced in this comment: *"I've never attended an institute that impacted my philosophy of teaching in such a profound way... I feel I really understand the depth of the arts integration strategies. Thank you for bringing these incredible Kennedy Center teaching artists to our community!"*

Missoula Cultural Council

Twice a year MCC produces a "Meet Me in Missoula" promotional campaign. These are times when the community is culturally quite active, but are during the "shoulder seasons" according to the tourism industry. "Meet Me in Missoula" encourages people to travel to Missoula to participate in the cultural amenities of this community.

Billings Symphony Orchestra & Chorale

BSO&C musicians are music teachers in their communities' schools, private music teachers, and members of their churches' choirs. They also come together in small ensemble organizations such as the pit orchestra of the Rimrock Opera Company and perform as various chamber ensembles about the state. They travel from Lavina, Bozeman, Red Lodge, Shepherd, and many other outlying areas, in addition to the many musicians who live in Billings. This ripple effect illustrates how the BSO&C helps to create the cultural fiber of the communities they serve, which in turn helps to make these areas a more attractive place for both people and businesses to live work and play.

Bozeman Symphony

Maestro Savery spearheads multiple projects with the Bozeman School District and MSU including purchasing equipment and instruments that can be used by several local organizations. He is very skilled at pooling resources to have the best outcome for the entire musical community. He is a regular presence in the schools, with students and other professional organizations, all at no cost to other organizations.

Helena Symphony Orchestra

Symphony Under the Stars has a financial return because of the number of people that attend this free event. People come from all over the country, stay in Helena's hotels, eat out in our restaurants and put money back into our community. At the same time, the experience of live classical music outdoors brings family and friends together to enjoy each other and the music. We had a phone call in January of last year from a loyal attendee wondering what the date would be for the next Symphony Under the Stars because she and her family were planning a bicycle trip through Montana and wanted to be sure they were in Helena at the right time so they could attend their favorite outdoor concert on their family vacation.

Equinox Theatre

Our new offering of musical theatre to our teens has also opened up access to some children in need. At our fundraising party on November 13th, our ED was approached by grandparents who are raising their granddaughter who has Asperger Syndrome. One of the symptoms of this syndrome is the inability to read non-verbal communication. Their granddaughter has great difficulty developing relationships with her peers since so much teen-age communication is non-verbal or implied. Her grandparents were overflowing with praise for our program that allowed their granddaughter to interact well with her peers and use talents that otherwise went unnoticed. They were so grateful for the help that their granddaughter had received that they were offering to help us start a program specifically geared towards teens with this type of problem.

Great Falls Symphony Assoc

The Great Falls Symphony's 50th Anniversary served as a catalyst to intensify the visibility of the GFSA in the region. The Great Falls business community has for some time demonstrated their belief in a connection between cultural environment and economic development, using the presence of the Great Falls Symphony as an example of the rich arts and cultural environment in the community. GFSA brochures are inserted as a regular component of promotional and marketing packets presented to people considering locating to this region. But the comments listed below from the "real" people – children and adults who have been touched by programs of the GFSA serve in their individual ways to weave a tapestry of thoughts and comments which tells the real story of the impact of the Great Falls Symphony in the lives of people through the region...

"The arts take good communities and make them extraordinary. The Great Falls Symphony has elevated the arts AND the community of Great Falls, and we are on our feet to thank them."

- Carleen Milburn – 'Signature Montana' Fall issue, 2008

Grandstreet Theatre – Helena

Last year's summer camp brought the following letter from the parents of a tiny preschooler with sensory processing disorder and selective mutism. According to the parents, these cause her paralyzing anxiety rendering her speechless at times even with therapy and medication. Not surprisingly, she missed her line in the final showcase and the instructor seamlessly said the line making the young lady's experience the highlight of the summer. "Just getting her on stage – and even smile a bit – was a huge accomplishment for her (and she wants to continue next year). Please accept our gratitude for giving our daughter more confidence to build on in her next life adventures." And THAT is what makes the arts great.

Fort Peck Fine Arts Council

Many of the smaller schools in the area have been forced to limit or cut their arts programming over the years because of the inability to recruit teachers or finance the programs. In order to fill this gap in essential education the FPFAC established a residency program where an artist will go into these small schools in two week increments and teach classroom subjects using the performing arts.

Hockaday Museum – Kalispell

Many of rural Montana's schools lack funds, staff, experience and materials required to implement Montana's Indian Education for All Act. Our Traveling Medicine Show is a valuable resource for schools whose limited budgets force them to eliminate or cut back on art and culture programs. Initially, the Medicine Show targeted 5th and 6th grade students whose schools were mandated by the Indian Education for All Act to provide instruction in Native American Studies. As social and civic benefits for children in all grades became obvious, the project expanded to accommodate grades K-12 and last year reached 14,000 in outreach sessions or at the Museum.

Hamilton Players

A letter received August 24, 2008:

Mr. Terry Croghan,

Everyone likes to know their work was appreciated so I am sending you this letter. My wife, Dorothy, and I attended your performance of Clarence Darrow on Saturday night. You gave a truly electric performance.

Several weeks ago I saw the ad for the Clarence Darrow play. I said to my wife, we have to go. We are both from Chicago, moved to Montana forty-three years ago. I was admitted to the bar in Illinois in 1955 and had my own practice until we moved in 1965.

I had read about Clarence Darrow and admired his accomplishments. I thought that's what lawyers were all about, helping those who could not help themselves. I taught school when we moved to the Bitterroot and we ranched for a number of years. I opened an office in Hamilton and had a practice for about ten years. I wanted to retire but clients have a hard time letting go, so I ran for County Attorney and served four years. Most of my clients had found new counsel and I retired.

I was a licensed attorney for fifty years. A few years ago I surrendered my license as I figured fifty years was long enough. I watched the practice of law change a lot in that time. It changed from a profession to a business and though I was adept at business I liked it much better as a profession.

I want to thank you for the wonderful performance. It brought back all the eager yearnings I had when I started practicing law. I always felt that people only came into my office because they had a problem, and my job was to help them solve it as best I could. I think the Darrow story sets that forth pretty clear...

*Very truly yours,
John W. Robinson*

Great Ideas:

MCT Inc – Missoula

At every Community Theatre show dress rehearsal, we collect cans of food as the “admission price” from attendees and donate all to the local food bank.

Alberta Bair Theatre – Billings

Last year’s economic slump significantly impacted audience attendance in theaters around the country. Recognizing the importance of making the arts relevant to entire families and acknowledging the dramatic reduction in expendable income available to local residents, the theater transformed its annual pricey black-tie Gala benefit into a free western street celebration in June 2009. The day-long street fair, with most activities free to the public, drew an estimated 8,000 people to downtown Billings. The event included tours of the theater, an old-fashioned gun fight, street dance, and dinner theater. Connections were successfully created between the ABT and area residents unfamiliar with the theater. Plans are in place for a second annual western street fair in the summer of 2010.

Whitefish Theatre Co: We offered a complimentary ticket with each season ticket, so that season ticket holders can invite a new person to the theatre. (and also) **Great Falls Symphony Assoc:** By providing 2 complimentary “introduce a friend” coupons which may be used during the year, to our season ticket holders... we have found that this gives them a sense of partnership, ownership in what we do.

Missoula Art Museum

MAM expanded the depth and modalities of exhibition interpretation to include the new technology of cell phone tours. Adding to the wall text, which gives a comprehensive introduction within each exhibition, and gallery guide cards, which provide more detailed information and can be taken home by the viewer or reused, MAM adopted cell phone audio tours in every exhibition beginning Summer 2008.

Fort Peck Fine Arts Council – Eureka

A new fund-raising project was added this past year and it has created a great deal of interest and enthusiasm. It is a trip of the month raffle and 300 tickets were sold all over the region, generating an awareness of the reach of the Theatre's supporters. Every month a drawing is held in a different location in the community and the results are published in local newspapers and on the Theatre's website. This fundraiser has also generated a significant amount of income for the FPFAC. Winners have been from California to Colorado and from Scobey to Phillipsburg.

Custer County Art & Heritage Center – Miles City

We provide our own wheelchair for use by guests. It is kept in a conspicuous space inside the new entrance near the ramp and stairs.

Billings Symphony Orchestra and Chorale

Meeting with local legislators is an ongoing effort at the Billings Symphony, and not limited to one “sit down” meeting. Our Board members are encouraged to advocate for the BSO&C throughout the year, and we are now collecting “5 for 30” forms at each Board meeting where our Board members document their monthly interactions (5 minutes for the past 30 days).

MCT, Inc - Missoula

We developed the ability to securely accept donations via our website. Although the volume is not large, we have started to receive donations via our website, thus giving us another tool with which to communicate with our donors.

Emerson Center for Arts and Culture - Bozeman

We have a relationship-building [activity] we call “friendraising.” ... we hosted a bingo night, which was attended by more than 200 people, young and old, and raised more than \$2,000 for our programs... which supplement our many art education classes throughout the year.

Helena Symphony Orchestra

Our subscribers continue to have the perk of the Pre-Concert Conductor Crash Courses where Maestro Scott has an opportunity to talk about the program and what the music means from a conductor’s perspective. New last year, we offered complimentary tickets to our neighboring arts organizations. Staff and volunteers are invited to attend our Exergy Masterworks Concerts as guests of the Helena Symphony. We’ve called this “The Artist’s Experience.” Similarly, we do “Business Partnership” with businesses in the community so they can offer patrons of their choice complimentary tickets to one of the Exergy Masterworks Concerts. We choose three or four businesses to share this opportunity. And the Helena Symphony continues to tape Symphony Preview through our partnership with Helena Civic Television, which reaches Bresnan customers in the Helena area.

Equinox Theatre Company – Bozeman

We have tripled our email list by having a drawing for free season tickets.

Whitefish Theatre Co

WTC continued its partnership with the Whitefish Downtown Farmers’ Market by presenting professional concerts on Tuesday evenings after the market. The market is held in the street in front of WTC’s venue, the O’Shaughnessy Center, and provides a lively and festive atmosphere in Whitefish’s downtown sector. Whitefish Theatre Co and the Market joined forces to promote and advertise the Farmers’ Market and WTC concerts.